

## **MINUTES**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mr. Hebert, at 7:04 pm.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **III. ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Mr. Hebert, Mr. Steere, Mr. Baker, Mr. Skeffington, Ms. Michalik and Mr. Gieck. Mr. Mainville, Business Manager, and Mr. Robert Wallace, Superintendent, were also in attendance.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Steere and seconded by Mr. Skeffington that the actions of the School Committee at the meeting scheduled on September 16, 2008 be approved as presented. Motion passed 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Steere and seconded by Mr. Skeffington that the Executive Minutes (sealed) from September 16, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion passed 6-0-0.

### **V. APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Mr. Baker that the approval of bills dated 10/2/2008 in the amount of \$356,281.01 be approved as presented. Motion passed 6-0-0.

### **VI. NATURE TRAIL – WEST GLOCESTER**

A Glocester resident/parent, Tracy Clifford, requested the support of the School Committee in developing a walking trail at the West Glocester School property. Ms. Clifford informed the Committee that this project has the support of the Superintendent, Mr. Wallace and Principal, Dr. Bowen. However, Dr. Bowen voiced a concern about the possibility of wet lands in the back. Ms. Clifford explained that the group is working with the Audubon Society and DEM. The local Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups will be helping also. The group has applied for a \$3500 grant from Lowe's. A concern was expressed about the possibility of a boundary dispute and the concern is being looked into. Bruce Payton, member of the Glocester Land Trust, might be able to help with the wet land concern.

Motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Mr. Hebert to approve the walking path with the help of Mr. McGovern, Maintenance Supervisor, DEM, and Mr. Payton was approved. Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **VII. GLOCESTER SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFFING POLICY**

Mr. John Magner asked the School Committee to pass a resolution authorizing the formation of a policy committee to draft a Special Education Staffing Policy.

Mr. Magner explained that the Board of Regents now requires each district to develop a policy to comply with the new special education regulations. The policy committee will insure that the district will meet the needs of all children with disabilities and allow for greater flexibility and efficiency in staff utilization. Ms. Michalik suggested that all the districts, Foster, Gloucester and Foster/Glocester Regional, follow the same policy instead of individual policies for each district.

Motion by Mr. Baker seconded by Ms. Michalik to support and endorse the request by Mr. Magner to form a policy committee to draft a Special Education Staffing Policy was approved.

Motion passed 5-1-0 (Mr. Skeffington against).

## **VIII. NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS**

Mr. Wallace informed the Committee that about a half dozen questionable residents are being investigated at this time. Schools need to verify residence and develop a regulation and process for re-verification. All new students are verified before acceptance into the school system.

## **IX. TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE**

Mr. Steer relayed to the Committee that the Town Council will cut \$90,000 from the school's budget and the remaining \$63,000 will be absorbed by the town.

## **X. BUDGET UPDATE**

Mr. Mainville informed the Committee that he is looking at special revenue funds and then he will have more reliable numbers. The \$90,000 cut by the Town Council will need to be looked at.

## **XI. APPOINTMENT TO BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hebert asked for volunteers from the School Committee. Mr. Baker, Mr. Steere and Ms. Michalak volunteered their services. They will get together as soon as possible with Mr. Wallace for the 2009-2010 budget.

## **XII. PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IF DEFICIT IS ANTICIPATED**

Mr. Wallace informed the Committee that there is a three step procedure to follow in the case of a deficit. The School Committee determines the projected deficit; the Committee notifies the Town Business Manager of the projected deficit; the Committee works with the Town Business Manager to produce a plan to eliminate the deficit.

## **XIII. BUSING ISSUES – REGION**

Mr. Steer addressed this item and wants to ask the Region to reimburse the Gloucester School District \$43,000 (approximately) for busing. A discussion followed with concerns of how this would affect the cost distribution with the Foster School District. The actual problem discovered is the issue of charter busing (this is a separate contracted service) for extra curricular activities and the need for this service to be billed to the Region not the Gloucester School Department. The busing company needs to keep track of miles and the price per gallon for those miles.

## **XIV. FUEL CONTRACT**

Mr. Mainville informed the Committee that two bids were received; one from Martini's Oil @ ten cents (\$.10) per gallon increment (no bid on lock in) and Riechert Fuel Oil @ \$.0085 over per gallon increment with a lock in price of \$3.19 per gallon unlimited. The State bid was sixteen cents (\$.16) per gallon increment with no lock in. Last years cost for heating fuel was \$1.99 per gallon with Reichert Fuel Oil.

A motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Mr. Baker to accept the bid of three dollars and nineteen cents (\$3.19) per gallon (unlimited gallons) of heating fuel with Reichert & Son Fuel Oil, Inc. for the 2008-2009 school year.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **XV. BUSING CONTRACTS**

Mr. Wallace and Mr. Steere updated the Committee on the progress being made with the busing companies. There was discussion on the cost of diesel fuel and the possibility of the School Department paying for the fuel and saving the Federal and State tax on fuel. The Gloucester School Department would need to audit the miles, fuel and the number of bus runs. The Bus Companies are agreeable to follow last year's agreement. No motion was entertained.

## **XVI. WELLNESS POLICY – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

Motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Ms. Michalik to accept the Wellness Policy as amended (see attached policy). Mr. Hebert thanked all individuals and their time involved with the development of the policy.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **XVII. TRANSFER OF BUSINESS OFFICE FROM REGION TO TOWN**

No discussion.

## **XVIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Personnel – Resignations/Leaves/Appointments –
  - a. Mr. Wallace sought the advice and consent of the Committee on the appointment of Sue Adams to the position of Academic Web Coordinator with a stipend of \$1082.00 for 2008-2009 school year. On a motion made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Michalik the appointment was approved. 5-1-0 (Mr. Skeffington against).
  - b. Mr. Wallace sought the advice and consent of the Committee on the appointment of Cheryl Sylvain to the position of I-Plan Coordinator with a stipend of \$1082.00 for 2008-2009 school year. On a motion made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Michalik the appointment was approved. 4-1-1 (Mr. Skeffington against, Mr. Steere abstained).

## **XIX. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

## **XX. HOME SCHOOLING REQUESTS**

On a motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Ms. Michalik the request by Patricia Inman, parent to Collin (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Delaney (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), to home school her children was approved.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Mr. Baker the request by Mr. & Mrs. Cleveland Howard to home school their children, Allyssa (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and Cleveland (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) was approved.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **XXI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items were expressed to be included on next month's agenda –

- Glocester Special Education Staffing Policy
- Town Council Update
- Budget Update
- Budget Deficit Procedures
- Bussing Issues
- Bussing Contract
- Non-Glocester students attending Glocester Schools

## **XXII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **XXIII. Move to Executive Session per RI General Laws (42-46) Open Meeting Law**

Motion by Mr. Baker seconded by Mr. Steere, that the Committee recess into Executive Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 at 8:35pm to consider Non-Certified Contract Negotiations/Collective Bargaining/Potential Litigation. Motion passed 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Skeffington that the Committee reconvene to Open Session at 9:25pm. Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **XXIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Baker seconded by Mr. Skeffington, to seal the minutes of Executive Session.

- a. General Disclosure of Executive Session Procedures
- b. Disclosure of any votes taken

Motion by Mr. Baker seconded by Ms. Michalik that the Committee accepted the Non-Certified Contract. Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **XXV. ADJOURMENT**

Motion by Mr. Baker seconded by Mr. Skeffington that the meeting be adjourned at 9:26 p.m. Motion passes 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

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**Helena McCullough**